

**Central Falls School District  
Board of Trustees  
Minutes**

**November 14, 2006**

**I. Call to Order:**

**Chairperson, Ms. Anna Cano-Morales, called the Central Falls School District Board of Trustees Meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.**

**Present were: Ms. Anna Cano-Morales, Chairperson**

**Mr. Angelo García, Vice-Chairperson**

**Ms. Mary Lou Perez, clerk**

**Ms. Ana Cecilia Rosado**

**Ms. Sonia Rodrigues-Carr**

**Mr. David Cruise.**

**Mr. Jhomphy Ventura. Arrived Late**

**II. Approval of Minutes:**

**Ms. Ana Cecilia Rosado made a motion to approve the minutes of October 10, 2006 and seconded by Mr. David Cruise and unanimously**

**approved by the Board.**

### **III. Schedule of Bills**

**Ms. Ana Cano-Morales said that she had some further discussion with Mr. Bob Murray on the bills especially on bussing and out of district placement. Mr. Bob Murray was out due to medical problems.**

**Mr. David Cruise motioned to approve the schedule of bills and seconded by Sonia Rodrigues-Carr. Ana Cecilia Rosado, Ms. Mary Lou Perez, Mr. Angelo Garcia, and Jhomphy Ventura had abstained on the motion due to they did not receive the packets on time in order to review the bills. Ms. Cano-Morales tabled the motion for approval of the minutes for the next board meeting. Dr. Holland said that it would be included on the agenda for the next Board Meeting.**

### **IV. Communication**

**None.**

### **V. Reports**

**Dr. Holland apologized for the late arrivals of the packets, they were sent on Friday, and Saturday was a holiday. Dr. Holland suggested that from now on the packets would be mailed out on the Wednesday before the Board of Trustees meeting. Also, he mentioned that there would be some changes on the agenda, especially on the Executive Session part.**

**a. New Principal, monthly report format.**

**Dr. Holland gave a brief explanation on what this monthly report will have and they were as follows: Principal Reports, SIT Notes, Student Highlights, Things you should know.**

**b. Seeking of staff and community input on new Superintendent's job description.**

**Dr. Holland said that the search for a new Superintendent has begun. He had met with different groups to get their input regarding job specification and to put together a list of what might be of interest in getting the new Superintendent.**

**Dr. Holland mentioned that he would meet again with these groups in December and in January.**

**Ms. Sonia Rodrigues-Carr asked if the list was in any particular order and Dr. Holland said that it was done randomly.**

**c. Report on School Community Task Force, Parent Advisory Meeting and Reflective 45 principal's meeting.**

**Dr. Holland had his first meeting with these groups where they discussed the attendance, tardiness and dropout rates. Ann Mariano is going to help with ConnectEd. There will be another meeting in December where we are going to evaluate strategies and look at what strategies might be considered.**

**d. Frank Knott did a presentation on Adoption of Model Policy for**

## **Controlled Substance and Alcohol Testing.**

**Mr. Knott gave the Board members a copy of this policy. Mr. Knott said that the insurance company has developed an inter-local trust that serves a number of school districts across the state and gave him a model policy on transportation regulations and procedures for drug and alcohol testing. Employees will have an hour and half training on this. This will be reviewed by the Legal Council and put in the next agenda.**

### **c. Attendance in school.**

**Mr. John Kennedy started his presentation by saying that he sent letters to freshmen parents, which explained the attendance in the school. Mr. Kennedy presented a prototype attendance policy to the board. The district has no comprehensive attendance policy.**

**"In the last two weeks, two parents have approached Mr. Kennedy about taking their kids on vacation to South American and Central American countries for an extended period of time, one vacation was three weeks, and this would mean that their child will be out of school for 15 days, not including the holiday. By the time they get back, we will be preparing for finals.**

**Mr. Kennedy's recommended policy, which is loosely based on that of North Providence, would allow students 10 absences (5 excused, 5 unexcused) for the entire school year. If a student, for whatever reason, misses more than 10 days, he or she could be assigned remedial work or lose a credit. Mr. Kennedy noted that, although the North Providence policy requires delinquent students to repeat**

classes, he recommended that high-performing students lose a credit, not the right to progress forward.

Ms. Cano-Morales said she understood the importance of such an initiative, but wants to know if it could make the district culturally insensitive or inflexible. Ms. Cano-Morales said that we should be more flexible.

Dr. Holland said that 30 percent of students at the high school are not in school everyday and that we need to reach the 90 percent attendance. Ms. Sonia Rodrigues-Carr agreed with Dr. Holland and also mentioned that we cannot put our kids in academic jeopardy. There should be a policy on this.

#### **b. Chairperson**

1. Ms. Cano-Morales said that they had commence its search for a new Superintendent and also reported that they will hire a consultant, Dr. James Magee, who will help in the search for the new Superintendent. The consultant fee is a reduced fee, 50% less than you will pay a normal consultant. Ms. Cano-Morales thanked Dr. Holland for his expertise and assistance and also said that we are lucky to have Dr. Holland shepherding us through the process and said that the board will go through a lot of pain to ensure that the search committee is well represented. We need to be inclusive, Ms. Cano-Morales said.

#### **VI. Personnel Matters.**

## **Appointments:**

**Rosemarie Souza – Temporary High School .67 Biology/Science Teacher for the first semester until January 19, 2007. Ms Souza recently graduated from Rhode Island College with her Master's in Biology. Her effective date of employment is October 30, 2006**

**Nina DeMartino – Temporary Calcutt Middle School special education teacher. Ms. DeMartino is a recent graduate of Rhode Island College in May. Her effective date is September 28, 2006.**

**Nicholas Lafreniere – Temporary District Wide .72 Health Teacher. Mr. Lafreniere was a substitute in the school district but accepted the position district wide. His effective date is October 3, 2006**

**Nicholas Hurd – District wide .72 Music Teacher. Mr. Hurd is a May graduate of the University of Rhode Island. His effective date is October 31, 2006.**

**Laurie Bucci – Temporary Special Education Teacher – High School. Ms Bucci has her Masters Degree in Secondary Administration from Providence College. Her appointment date will be November 20, 2006.**

**Erin Papa – Temporary ESL Elementary teacher at Calcutt Middle School, Ms Papa is a graduate of University of Rhode Island, and**

**Rhode Island College with her Master's Degree in ESL. Her appointment date will be November 27, 2006.**

**Consulo Rojas – District wide Interpreter – Ms. Rojas is a native Spanish speaker and will be translating for our Special Education department; her appointment date is October 23, 2006**

**Ernestina Ball – High School Guidance Secretary – Ms. Ball is an experienced secretary that has many years of experience with Paramount Cards. Her date of appointment is October 19, 2006.**

## **VII. Approval of Appointments**

**Ms. Ana Cecilia Rosado motioned to approve the appointments. The motion was seconded by Mr. David Cruise and unanimously approved by the Board.**

## **VIII. New Business:**

### **a. Request for approval from Don Blais.**

**Mr. Blais introduced himself and gave a brief explanation regarding the Grand Canyon trip during spring break. This trip will not be a vacation, we had several meetings and discussions regarding what are expected from the students at this place. The trail that the students will be on is the easiest trail. Water will be present at all**

times. We are trying to raise funds to pay for this trip. Mr. Blais did apply for a CVS community grant, (\$5,000.00) and they will get back to him in February. This trip is for 10 students and 7 or 8 adults. For the insurance, if the student pays an additional \$45.00 they will be cover throughout the school year. The students will be trained; they might camp at Lincoln Woods or Emerald Square Mall. Mr. Blais stated that they would be fully trained prior to leaving for the trip.

- **School Security Presentation**

Liz Legault, Principal at Calcutt School did a Power Point presentation on security in the schools.

Liz and Officer Sandy Greco decided to put together a policy on safety issue inside and outside the school and it is as follows:

Did you know:

- **Not all threats to schools are violent attacks**
- **Weather related**
- **Hazardous-material/Spills**
- **Fire**

More facts:

- **Students are less at risk for incidents of serious violent crime while at school then when they are outside the schools**
- **Building security:**
- **Door locked**
- **Visitors screened**
- **SRO in building – constant**



- **Contact with main office and police station on patrol in hallways and outside building**

### **Calcutt Plan**

- **Calm and control at all times**
- **Assessment**
- **Respond**
- **Principal and SRO make decision as team**

### **Code Black**

#### **Level one**

- **No threat**
- **Building notified**
- **No movement in hallways**
- **All students accounted for in class**

#### **Level two**

- **Possible threat**
- **Protocol from one**
- **Secure door and windows**
- **Office lock down**

#### **Level three**

- **Imminent threat**
- **Protocols from one and two**
- **Gather students in class room back wall, light shut off, close shades and wait for further instructions**

**Report of extension of Dr. Holland's consultant contract as Interim Superintendent.**

**Ms Cano-Morales mentioned that Dr. Holland will be working part-time starting January 2007 until the end of March. Ewa Pytowska will be assuming Dr. Holland's position until April when Dr. Holland returns to full time. Mr. Mario Papitto will do the No School announcement due to weather. Ms. Cano-Morales asked for a motion to approve Dr. Holland's extension.**

**David Cruise made a motion to approve extension of Dr. Holland's consultant contract as Interim Superintendent and seconded by Ms. Ana Cecilia Rosado and unanimously approved by the Board, 7-0.**

**• Public Comments:**

**Ms. Liz Ramirez PTO President at Veterans School presented to the Board a petition signed by 200 parents demanding that every school in the district should hire a Spanish-Speaking secretary. Ms. Ramirez said that we need a Spanish-Speaking person in every office so the parents can communicate with the schools. Ms. Cano-Morales said that she agrees with the sentiment, but urges patience.**

**Ms. Pat Morris ESL Director just wanted to give her support to Don Blais.**

**IX. Executive Session/Adjournment**

**Mr. David Cruise made a motion to go into Executive Session and adjourn the meeting, seconded by Ms. Ana Cecilia Rosado. The meeting was adjourned at 7:49 p.m. A roll call vote was taken and so the Board unanimously approved it.**